



CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

225 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

Telephone: (03) 663 1674

Postal Address: G.P.O. Box 5211AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia

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M E M B E R S

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

F R O M

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J U N E 1 9 8 4

1. VICTORIAN CO-OPERATOR HONOURED

Congratulations to Ted Long, Director, Co-operative Federation of Victoria, Member, Co-operative Societies Advisory Council, General Manager, Y.C.W. Co-operative and a life-long leading Co-operator in Victoria on the well-deserved award of the Medal in the Order of Australia announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

2. NEW BOARD MEMBER

Following the resignation of Geoff Simm from the Board of the Federation, Mr. Ian Symons, Director, Warrnambool Co-operative Society and senior lecturer, Faculty of Business Studies, Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education, has accepted the Board's invitation to fill the casual vacancy.

3. 1984 CONFERENCE

Always an important function when Co-operatives and the Federation share experiences and ensure needed services are developed, this year's conference has even greater significance and maximum representation is vital to voice the aim of preserving the self-help independence of our Co-operative sector.

In addition to dealing with the pressing matter of Government relations and Co-operatives, the Conference will be concerned with ways and means of adapting to changing times and conditions.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Co-operation, appointed by the Minister administering the Co-operation Act, to review that legislation and to identify appropriate mechanisms for developing the Co-operative sector has recently issued a comprehensive information paper seeking to identify main issues confronting the Co-operative movement. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies will be speaking on Victorian Government policies and Co-operatives.

At the request of one member, a major topic to be considered will be the trend towards a more co-operatively structured industry and its effect on industrial relations. This includes Co-operative businesses.

The term "Industrial Democracy" has been used for several years to denote greater employee participation in the running of industry. The Co-operative approach is that where employees are encouraged to have their delegated views represented in policy decisions, to have equity in their business and a consequent responsibility for performance to become entitled to a share of surplus derived from profitable operations a better workforce is created with ability to increase the competitive edge of Australian Industry. The application of this concept varies from industry to industry according to its structure and operations. Many businesses are taking up Government offers of funds for study of the application of this principle in their businesses. The Trades Hall Council has appointed a committee to study the effect of such development on Trade Union operations.

Fletcher Jones has successfully operated such a staff participating scheme for over 35 years.

The Conference will provide a panel to introduce various attitudes to the concept to enable a fuller consideration to be given. In addition to David Purchase, Employers' Federation, and Jim Roumeliotis of Modern Maid and Staff, a Trade Union viewpoint will be given by Max Ogden, Amalgamated Metals, Foundry & Shipwrights' Union and currently taking part in a national Trade Union project of assessment of industrial democracy related to the Trade Union Movement.

Please see the Conference brochure for fuller details of arrangements of the Conference or phone the Co-operative Federation office.

4. CHANGE TO CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Since printing the Conference programme we have received advice that two of the speakers who agreed to introduce the subject of "Co-operative Capital" will be unavailable due to unforeseen extension of their absence from the State over that period.

The Board has, therefore, changed the programme in the 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. timeslot to provide for discussion on meeting technological change. The session will deal with "Coming to Grips with Computers". It will provide an introduction to the application of computer systems to small and medium Co-operative businesses, outlining benefits and proposing how to overcome some of the problems both people and increased performance create in the introduction of computer activities.

The session will be led by Peter Juliff, Head of the Department of Computing, Victoria College, Burwood. Peter has had twenty years' experience in the computing field, having been involved in design and implementation of computing systems.

5. MEMBER RELATIONS

Leon Randolph comes to the Conference to talk to us from Farmland Industries, the biggest co-operative in the U.S.A. whose Annual General Meetings attract a gathering of about 20,000 - yes twenty thousand people. He will be giving us some hints on how to improve our co-operative performance through better Member involvement.

6. GOVERNMENT LOOKS AT MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SHARES

The detailed papers outlining The Economic Strategy for Victoria published by the Victorian Government Treasurer includes the following statement:-

"The Government and the Melbourne Stock Exchange (M.S.E.) have discussed the possibility of establishing a 'Second Board' for the listing of small public companies.....

Consideration is also being given to creating a market for miscellaneous securities such as shares in Producer Co-operatives for which no effective market exists. For taxation reasons Co-operatives are precluded by their rules from obtaining listing on a Stock Exchange..... The M.S.E. is examining the matter and the Government has undertaken to consider a review of the restrictions in the Co-operative Act if it is necessary."

One Melbourne Stock Broker quoted a price for the shares of each of three Co-operative companies in a public advertisement in The Financial Review.

The Federation has made submissions to the Treasurer and to the Chairman of the M.S.E. Committee examining the proposal, emphasising that Taxation legislation specifically excludes Co-operative shares from quotation on Stock Exchanges and in "any other public manner whatever", that the mutuality nature of Co-operatives must be protected and has sought consultation on this matter before any further public statements are made.

Your Federation is aware of the problems associated with shares of deceased members, or members leaving an industry in which new members are not forthcoming. The subject was to have been discussed at the 1984 Conference and will now be considered at a later date. Experiences and opinions of Co-operatives on this subject would be welcomed by the Federation.

7. PROPOSED CHANGES TO MINISTERIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

At the Government funded Co-operative seminar on Saturday, 23rd June 1984, over 500 delegates heard the Registrar advance a proposal for the termination of the five person Co-operative Societies Advisory Council (of which two members are nominees of this Federation appointed by the Minister) to be replaced with a ten person Co-operative Council comprising one representative each from :-

Producer Co-operatives	Registry
Trading Co-operatives	Ministry Employment and Training
Credit Co-operatives	Treasury
Housing Co-operatives	Ministry Labour and Industry
Community Co-operatives	Trades Hall Council

8. MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION

Attention is again directed to the information paper on "Development of the Co-operative Movement in Victoria". Public responses and submissions are invited. All Co-operative Boards are urged to study this paper and arrange for their responses to be submitted direct before 31st July 1984 or through this Federation where they should arrive by 24th July 1984. The Federation would be happy to discuss any matters relating to this paper which Co-operatives would like to have considered.

The Committee has allocated areas of liaison to each of its members for differing Co-operative operations in Victoria.

These are:-

Industrial Co-operatives
Consumer Co-operatives

Andrew McCutcheon, M.L.A.
David Dinning,
Victorian Credit Co-operative
Association

Marketing/Producer Co-operatives

Bill Rawlinson,
Co-operative Federation of Victoria

Community Programme Co-operatives

Barry Pullen, M.L.C.

9. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Directors' Seminar fully booked

31 Directors have nominated for the second Director Training Seminar, scheduled for July 11th and 12th, 1984,

American Co-operatives Summer Institute

The Federation has submitted six nominations from Australian Co-operators to take part in the American Institute of Co-operation Summer Institute to be held on the Campus of Montana State University at the end of July beginning of August 1984.

10. VICTORIAN TRADING CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of Trading Co-operative representatives has been called for 31st July 1984 to coincide with the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Trading Co-operative Association. It will consider development of operations through the Association specifically to benefit Trading Co-operatives.